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Failed development and vulnerability to climate change in central Asia: Implications for food security and health

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Abstract:

This article presents results of research undertaken to identify factors that affect the vulnerability of rural Mongolian herders to climate change. Findings suggest that models of market development instituted since 1990 have failed to recognize and support key elements of the pastoralist adaptive strategy. A retreating state presence has led to the collapse of regulatory regimes needed to safeguard critical common resources. This in turn has produced considerable social differentiation in the countryside, a breakdown in cooperative institutions, and conflicts over water and pasture. In a context of climate change, these changes seriously threaten the sustainability of the rural economy, leading to livelihood insecurity, growing rural poverty, and increasing rates of migration to shantytowns surrounding the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. The newly vulnerable poor are at higher risk for poor health and malnutrition.

Source: http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1010539510373008

Resource Description

Communication: M

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: M

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement

Geographic Feature: M

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural, Urban

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Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: Other Asian Country

Other Asian Country: Mongolia

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact, Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Intervention: M

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: **№**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: M

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup, Workers

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Mongolian

Resource Type: **№**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale: M

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: ™

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content